

and how fast we train security forces and police there. It is also clear that the faster and better we train these forces, the sooner our troops can come home.

This amendment is designed to ensure that the training in Afghanistan—for which this bill dedicates more than \$600 million, including \$44.5 million which is to be available only for the establishment of a pilot program to train local Afghan police forces—is handled well and is handled in an accountable fashion.

We have seen what happens when training is rushed or when accountability is ignored. The Haitian National Police, for which we spent hundreds of millions of dollars training in the 1990s, is all but disbanded. We are all familiar with the stories of mismanagement of police training in the Balkans. And just last week, Secretary Rumsfeld took an emergency trip to Baghdad to try to salvage some of the training we have done there as Shiite political leaders threaten to purge Sunni officials from the forces.

This amendment is meant to ensure that training in Afghanistan benefits from lessons learned and the mistakes of the past. It adds commonsense provisions to the \$660 million appropriated for police and counternarcotics programs in Afghanistan. We need to take this step because the challenges we face in training a capable security and police force in Afghanistan are perhaps even more daunting than in Iraq.

First, Afghanistan is the world's largest producer of poppy, the raw material for heroine. It produces 80 percent of the world's heroine and, according to the United Nations, is currently producing dramatically more than it did under the control of the Taliban. Keep in mind that heroine use not only fuels crime throughout Europe and in the United States, but it funds terrorist organizations and is responsible for the looming AIDS crisis throughout eastern Europe.

Second, there are already several countries and organizations training forces in Afghanistan, including for the vitally important effort of counternarcotics. In fact, this difficult task of building a capable law enforcement system in that formerly ruler-less country is divided among the United States, Italy, Great Britain and several different international organizations.

And third, the way the administration has structured this program lends itself to confusion and competition among American agencies. The funding in the bill goes to the Department of Defense, but much of the police training will be handled by the State Department.

This amendment is an effort to make sure we can get the accountability our taxpayers deserve as well as the success that our national security demands.

I recognize good training will not be easy. I also understand that in post-conflict societies, it is often difficult to

find good personnel. But I also recognize that we simply have to get better at how we train other people to take over security in their own countries.

The stress on our Armed Forces demands no less. The challenges facing U.S. taxpayers demand no less. And success in post-conflict societies demands no less.

Before coming to the U.S. Senate, I had the honor of serving our great State of Colorado as attorney general. In that job, I made homeland security my highest priority.

One of the responsibilities I had as attorney general was being chairman of the Peace Officers Standards and Training Board, POST. Given all that our police officers and their families give for us and for our State, the least I could do was to fight for additional training and support resources.

In 2003, we did that, and in exchange we asked for greater accountability. We did that, too, and the result has been a better trained and more accountable police force, not to mention a safer Colorado.

It has worked in Colorado and across this country. I believe with the adoption of this amendment we can start to make it happen in our police training overseas as well.

Madam President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SALAZAR. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### POPE BENEDICT XVI

Mr. SALAZAR. Madam President, I want to take a moment this morning to discuss the election of Pope Benedict XVI as the leader of my church and the leader of the 1 billion Catholics in our world. I pray for him as he assumes this awesome responsibility for our church and for our world.

I have also been comforted by the comments we have heard from Pope Benedict XVI. We know we face some difficult challenges in the Catholic Church in the days and years ahead. We also know we as Catholics are not united on every issue. As I said on this floor after the passing of Pope John Paul the Great, we as Catholics are both comforted by our church's teachings and challenged by its demands. That will continue to be the case. And that is as it should be.

What is also true is what Pope Benedict XVI said yesterday. He said: Catholics "look serenely at the past and do not fear the future."

I was also touched by another thing the Pope said yesterday. In relation to John Paul the Great's efforts to reach out to other Christian faiths, Pope Benedict XVI said:

I am fully determined to accept every initiative that seems opportune to promote contact and understanding.

"I am fully determined to accept every initiative that seems opportune to promote contact and understanding."

I am praying for those kinds of efforts. I hope each of us will take a moment this Sunday, the very day of the Pope's inaugural mass, to pause and reflect on how we can best live up to this challenge from Pope Benedict XVI.

Madam President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. JOHNSON. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. JOHNSON. Madam President, as a Senator who has served in both the House of Representatives and the Senate, in both the majority and the minority in the House and both in the majority and the minority in the Senate, I am distressed at some of the rhetoric and debate that has gone forward relative to the role of the so-called filibuster rule or the nuclear option, as some people refer to it. It is my hope the debate can go forward in a more civil and thoughtful manner than has sometimes been the case up until now.

I have served—and it has been an honor to serve—in both bodies. Each of the bodies, the House and the Senate, has a respective and important role to play. One of the factors, however, that most distinguishes the Senate from the other body is the existence of the 60-vote rule, the so-called filibuster rule, which has the consequence of requiring both political parties to come to the center, to have some at least modicum of bipartisanship in the proposals they pursue, the nominees who are considered.

That is one of the great strengths of the Senate. I know it frustrates some who would like to see the Senate operate more as the other body does, where a one-vote margin is all that is essentially ever necessary. A rules committee further streamlines things. As a consequence, the other body tends to be and has been over the years most often a far more partisan body than the Senate.

The Founders designed the Senate with 6-year terms and a differing basis for selection as a body that would be the more thoughtful, more deliberative, would take the longer view of initiatives that are before the Congress. The Senate plays a very important role.

There is too much partisanship in Congress. I have the honor of representing South Dakota, a State some would describe as a dark red State that President Bush won by a large margin this last time. I am very proud of the